

## [Edwin Sparks]

AB/pc [??] S -[???] Dup

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th

DATE Dec. 20, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Edwin Sparks 245 So 20th
2. Date and time of interview Dec. 20, 1938. 1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
3. Place of interview Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Two-story apartment. Shabby and unkept. Apartment shabby and sparsely furnished. [C???]

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th

DATE Dec. 20, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Edwin Sparks 245 So. 20th

1. Ancestry Negro

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2. Place and date of birth San Antonio, Texas. 1864

3. Family Three

4. Places lived in, with dates Born in army and traveled over country. Been in Lincoln since 1916.

5. Education, with dates Self-educated

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Laborer

7. Special skills and interests Fishing

8. Community and religious activities Baptist

9. Description or informant Tall, grey-eyed, copper complexioned individual.

10. Other points gained in interview Informant mixed with either [racial?] element but reluctant to talk about it. Not overly anxious to be interviewed until [mention?] of his service in U.S. army.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So. 20th.

DATE Dec. 20, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Edwin Sparks 245 So. 20th

"I'm not overly anxious to feel with anything like this because I don't see where it will do anyone any good. Anyhow I'll tell you something about my [war?] service because I'm proud of it and can say I've did as much or more for my country as any man white or black.

## Library of Congress

My dad fought with the Union army and I fought with it over in the Philippines; I didn't get drafted either ; I enlisted.

I was doing duty on the attack service up in the hills eighteen miles from Wallick.

We had order not to advance but to camp where [we?] was and not make any fires, because they were expecting an attack by General [Lanfaum?] the Philippine Commander.

We made a fire anyhow and liked to of got blowed to hades by the U.S. Gunboat Prince [anchored?] at the foot of the bay. We started retreating toward the gunboat fast as we could, you see, they figured we was being attacked by the enemy. As we neared the bay they was coming to shore with guns turned loose, it was so dark they didn't know who we was. We sure thought our time had come.

I believe we might have got wiped out if a couple of the boys hadn't started singing and the rest of the bunch joining in at the top of their voices an old plantation spiritual "Stars of the elements are falling, And the moon shall be turned to blood".

You can just bet [that?] has always been one of my favorite songs.